

## The State of Social Justice Philanthropy 2011

By Niki Jagpal and Kevin Laskowski

In 2011, 1,121 of the largest American foundations reported more than \$2.9 billion in social justice philanthropy. Still, less than one in eight grant dollars (12 percent) went towards supporting social justice efforts in 2011.

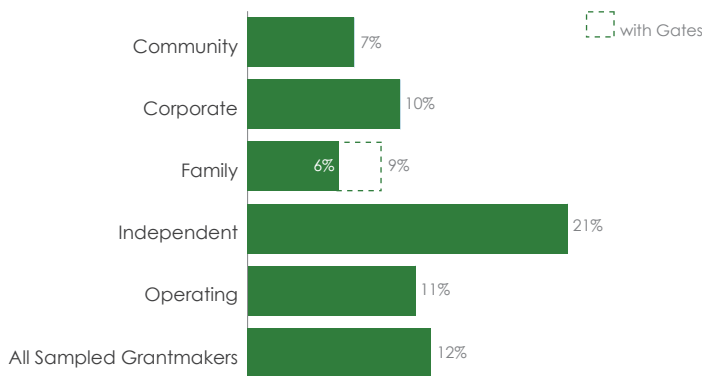
A previous NCRP analysis of average giving from 2008 to 2010 found that social justice grantmaking comprised 15 percent of grant dollars.<sup>1</sup> This year's sample includes significantly more funders and nearly double the share of foundations that do not report any social justice grantmaking (Figure 4). Among those that do report social justice grants, the median commitment increased from 4 percent in 2008-2010 to 7 percent in 2011.

Social justice philanthropy is defined as funding "work for structural change in order to increase the opportunity of those who are the least well off politically, economically and socially."<sup>2</sup> NCRP's *Criteria for Philanthropy at Its Best* encourages grantmakers to provide at least 25 percent of grant dollars for advocacy, organizing and civic engagement to promote equity, opportunity and justice in our society.<sup>3</sup>

Grant dollars given by independent foundations (Figure 1), Northeastern foundations (Figure 2) and larger grantmakers (Figure 3) are more likely to be provided in this way. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation remains the top social justice funder by total dollars awarded based on the definition employed for this analysis.

Figure 1. Social Justice Philanthropy by Foundation Type ▽

Independent foundations are more likely to report social justice grantmaking.



### 2011 AT A GLANCE



**\$2.9B**

Grant dollars for social justice



**12%**

Share of total grant dollars given for social justice



**2%**

Median foundation share of giving for social justice

Figure 2. Social Justice Philanthropy by Foundation Region ▷  
Southern grantmakers are the least likely to report funding social justice.

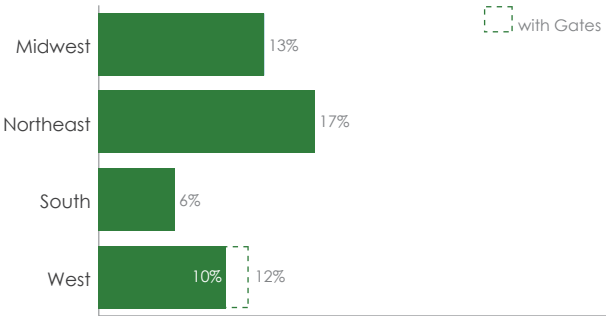


Figure 3. Social Justice Philanthropy by Foundation Size ▷  
Foundations giving \$10 million or more are more likely to provide social justice grant dollars.

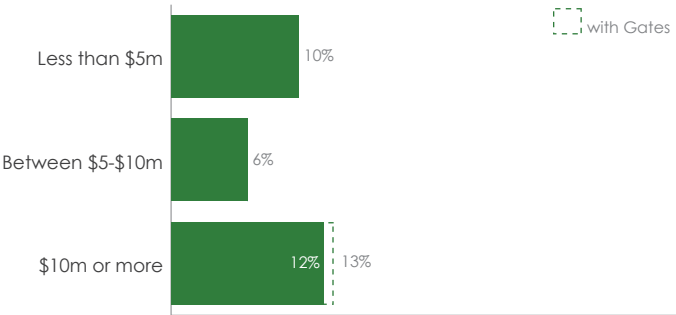
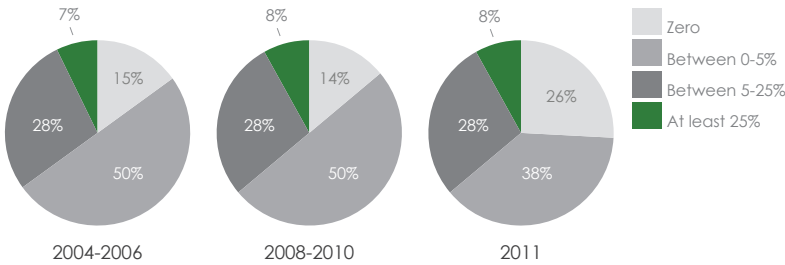


Figure 4. How Much Social Justice Philanthropy Do Grantmakers Do? ▷  
Eight percent of funders provide at least 25 percent of grant dollars for social justice.



### LARGEST SOCIAL JUSTICE GRANTMAKERS

In 2011, 94 grantmakers (8 percent of the 1,121 sampled funders) reported giving at least 25 percent of their grant dollars for social justice purposes. This increased from 76 grantmakers in the 2008-2010 analysis (8 percent of sampled funders) and from 56 (7 percent of sampled funders) in the 2004-2006 analysis.

Table 1. Largest Social Justice Funders by Share of Total Giving, 2011 ▷

FOUNDATION NAME	STATE	SOCIAL JUSTICE PHILANTHROPY	
		AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
A Glimmer of Hope Foundation	TX	\$6,453,769	100%
Public Welfare Foundation, Inc.	DC	\$19,209,357	93%
Northwest Area Foundation	MN	\$8,621,634	92%
Rosenberg Foundation	CA	\$1,817,000	89%
The Libra Foundation	IL	\$1,605,000	87%
The Benificus Foundation	CA	\$3,925,001	85%
The Melville Charitable Trust	MA	\$3,959,377	84%

Table 1. Largest Social Justice Funders by Share of Total Giving, 2011 (continued) ▾

FOUNDATION NAME	STATE	SOCIAL JUSTICE PHILANTHROPY	
		AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
Arcus Foundation	MI	\$39,193,140	81%
Wallace Global Fund II	DC	\$1,956,676	80%
The Colorado Trust	CO	\$10,376,693	80%
New York Foundation	NY	\$2,611,875	77%
The Riggio Foundation	NY	\$6,760,000	73%
The Weberg Trust	IL	\$5,700,000	72%
Marguerite Casey Foundation	WA	\$14,416,276	72%
The Gill Foundation	CO	\$7,145,549	72%
Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation, Inc.	NY	\$963,000	70%
Ford Foundation	NY	\$291,806,531	70%
The Annie E. Casey Foundation	MD	\$57,523,782	66%
The Arca Foundation	DC	\$1,255,000	66%
van Loben Sels/RembeRock Foundation	CA	\$1,030,500	66%
Technical Training Foundation	MA	\$3,130,000	63%
The F. B. Heron Foundation	NY	\$5,222,500	63%
Foundation for Child Development	NY	\$994,500	62%
Ben & Jerry's Foundation, Inc.	VT	\$976,000	61%
Fund for Nonviolence	CA	\$642,000	60%

Table 2. Largest Social Justice Funders by Total Amount, 2011 ▾

FOUNDATION NAME	STATE	SOCIAL JUSTICE PHILANTHROPY	
		AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	WA	\$601,286,990	14%
Ford Foundation	NY	\$291,806,531	70%
The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation	NJ	\$106,694,860	32%
W. K. Kellogg Foundation	MI	\$100,632,056	35%
Foundation to Promote Open Society	NY	\$89,017,610	43%
The Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation	NE	\$66,866,982	19%
The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation	IL	\$64,246,428	37%
The California Endowment	CA	\$62,836,612	55%
The Rockefeller Foundation	NY	\$62,436,558	46%
Carnegie Corporation of New York	NY	\$62,411,800	60%
The Annie E. Casey Foundation	MD	\$57,523,782	66%
The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation	CA	\$50,866,000	26%
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation	MI	\$42,041,035	50%
Arcus Foundation	MI	\$39,193,140	81%

Table 2. Largest Social Justice Funders by Total Amount, 2011 (continued) ▾

FOUNDATION NAME	STATE	SOCIAL JUSTICE PHILANTHROPY	
		AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
The Kresge Foundation	MI	\$33,516,264	23%
Open Society Institute	NY	\$28,691,948	58%
The JPMorgan Chase Foundation	NY	\$27,626,397	22%
Silicon Valley Community Foundation	CA	\$25,874,888	14%
The Bank of America Charitable Foundation, Inc.	NC	\$24,203,745	16%
Wells Fargo Foundation	CA	\$19,316,211	28%
Public Welfare Foundation, Inc.	DC	\$19,209,357	93%
NoVo Foundation	NY	\$17,867,766	54%
The David and Lucile Packard Foundation	CA	\$16,046,207	7%
The James Irvine Foundation	CA	\$16,038,325	28%
Houston Endowment Inc.	TX	\$15,428,500	16%

METHODOLOGY

NCRP worked with the Foundation Center to develop custom datasets using the Center’s grants sample database, which includes detailed information on all grants of \$10,000 or more awarded to organizations circa 2011 by 1,121 of the largest U.S. foundations.

Information on social justice giving is based on foundations’ reports of their grants and Foundation Center criteria for social justice grantmaking. Foundations noted in the data as giving zero to social justice either did not have grants that met the criteria for social justice grantmaking or did not provide enough information to code them as such. NCRP encourages grantmakers to contact the Foundation Center to ensure appropriate classification of their grants.

For more information or to see how your foundation performs compared to its peers, please contact [research@ncrp.org](mailto:research@ncrp.org). ■

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*The authors would like to extend a special thanks*

*to Steven Lawrence, director of research at the Foundation Center, for his review and guidance.*

NOTES

- 1. Niki Jagpal and Kevin Laskowski, *The State of Social Justice Philanthropy* (Washington, D.C.: National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy, 2012), <http://ncrp.org/files/publications/PhilanthropicLandscape-StateofSocialJusticePhilanthropy.pdf>.
- 2. Tanya E. Coke, Scott Nielsen, Henry A.J. Ramos, Sherry Seward and Bradford K. Smith, *Social Justice Grantmaking II: An Update on U.S. Foundation Trends*, ed. Steven Lawrence (New York: Foundation Center, 2009).
- 3. Niki Jagpal, *Criteria for Philanthropy at Its Best: Benchmarks to Assess and Enhance Grantmaker Impact* (Washington, D.C.: National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy, 2009), <http://www.ncrp.org/paib>.

ABOUT NCRP

We promote philanthropy that serves the public good, is responsive to people and communities with the least wealth and opportunity, and is held accountable to the highest standards of integrity and openness.

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